

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2004

Contact: Senator Chuck Gross
573-751-8635

**SEN. CHUCK GROSS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE
JOINT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES COMMITTEE**

JEFFERSON CITY -- Sen. Chuck Gross, R-St. Charles, has been elected chairman of the Missouri General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). This key legislative committee oversees rules instituted by state agencies, state departments and the executive branch and, if judged necessary, can overturn rules.

"When state agencies pass a new rule, that rule has nearly the same weight as a law," said Gross. "It's the role of JCAR to monitor agency's actions and determine whether there is statutory authorization for a rule and if there isn't, the rule must be eliminated."

Under state law, JCAR must continuously monitor and review both proposed and existing rules promulgated by the various executive branch departments and divisions of state government.

"Anyone with concerns about rules issued by state agencies can contact the committee," Gross said. "The goal of this committee is to ensure state agencies do not exceed their authority."

Any disapproved action taken by the committee on rules and regulations of state agencies must be ratified by the full General Assembly through a concurrent resolution, which then has to be signed by the governor.

"Too often state regulations unfairly penalize business owners and workers in Missouri," said Gross. "An overabundance of rules can impair business growth and the

development of new jobs. JCAR is a watchdog to insure that these rules don't get out of hand."

The St. Louis metropolitan area has lost 8,700 jobs in the past 12 months, and has seen 51,700 jobs disappear since the end of 1999.

"While our area's unemployment rate is around 5 percent and remains below the national average, we must figure out a way to make our economy grow," Gross said.

"Rules and regulations in state government should serve as a catalyst for economic growth, not an obstacle."